



# Attention California Ocean Salmon Anglers

## Please check your catch!



In recent years, coho salmon have been frequently contacted in California's ocean fisheries. Although some of these salmon may have originated from hatcheries in Oregon and Washington, many are California coastal coho salmon, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Thus the retention of coho salmon is PROHIBITED in all California ocean fisheries. Please take the time to correctly identify each salmon caught before removing it from the water. All coho must be released.



To help avoid contacting coho salmon:

Fish nearshore for chinook - coho are usually more offshore.

Use large lures that select for larger chinook and reduce coho catch.

[For additional information, please contact the Department's Ocean Salmon Project @ \(707\) 576-2870](#)

Note: A few pink (*O. gorbuscha*) salmon have been caught in past seasons. Pink salmon are generally smaller than chinook and coho salmon and can be identified by the large, oval-shaped spots found on their back and on both lobes of the caudal fin. Their scales are very small and number over 168 in the row above the lateral line. The minimum size limit in California for pink salmon is 20 inches total length. The daily bag/possession limit remains 2 salmon of any species except coho.

\*Photo by CDFG Warden Bob Aldrich